

NOTES AND MEMORANDA

Members' Meetings

TUESDAY, October 18th, at 5.15 p.m. "Intelligence and Family Size." *Speaker*: J. A. Fraser Roberts, M.A., M.B., D.Sc., F.R.S.E.

Tuesday, November 15th, at 5.15 p.m. "Intelligence Tests." *Speaker*: Professor C. Spearman, Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S.

Tuesday, December 20th, at 5.15 p.m. "External Migration." *Speaker*: R. S. Walshaw.

The meetings will take place in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. Tea will be served at 4.45 p.m.

Population Policies Committee

PROFESSOR N. F. HALL, Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, has been elected chairman of the Population Policies Committee, which is jointly controlled by the *Eugenics Society* and P.E.P. The representatives of the *Society* are Dr. C. P. Blacker, Professor A. M. Carr-Saunders, Mr. D. V. Glass, Mrs. Eva Hubback, Mr. D. Caradog Jones, and Mr. E. M. H. Lloyd. P.E.P. is represented by Mr. H. C. Emerson, Mr. Max Nicholson, and Mr. S. K. Ruck. Mr. F. Lafitte, Secretary to the Committee, was an exhibitioner of Worcester College, Oxford, where he took a First in Modern Greats in 1935; he also obtained a diploma in anthropology in 1937. At its first meeting the Committee agreed upon the terms of reference which are set out on page 84.

Work of the Propaganda Department

THE *Society's* exhibit will be shown at the Royal Sanitary Institute's Conference and Health Exhibition, at the Connaught Drill Hall, Portsmouth, from July 11th-16th. At the Conference held last year the exhibit won a Bronze Medal. (See *EUGENICS REVIEW*, October 1937, p. 204.)

On this occasion two new pedigrees will be exhibited. 1. Mr. Anthony Eden's pedigree dating back to the beginning of the eigh-

teenth century and showing intermarriage with the Chichele Plowden and Grey families. The material for this pedigree has been supplied by Mr. Gunn, and it shows many men of outstanding ability in administrative and diplomatic circles, i.e. a Prime Minister, four Viceroys of India, two Foreign Secretaries, a Home Secretary, a Colonial Secretary, a Governor-General of Canada, four Governors of Provinces, three Bishops, two Ambassadors, four Generals, two Admirals and a Governor of the Bank of England. These, represented in different colours with the symbols of their rank, make of the pedigree a striking and attractive exhibit. Our thanks are due both to Mr. Gunn and to Mr. J. Jacobs who, from the material provided, drafted out the pedigree. Mr. Jacobs also very kindly drafted the Anderson pedigree from material supplied by Mr. B. S. Bramwell. 2. The pedigree of the Ivimey family, who have been choristers in various cathedrals and in the Westminster Abbey and Magdalen College choirs for five generations. It begins with John Ivimey, in the early eighteen hundreds, and carries on till the present day with a boy of nine, now a chorister at Magdalen College, Oxford. This pedigree, a piece of my own research, includes composers, organists, conductors, instrumentalists, in fact musicians of all kinds.

Messrs. George Philip & Sons are publishing the School Charts at the end of June, so that sets will be available for sale at the Portsmouth Exhibition. We have already received a satisfactory number of orders.

We now have a silent projector and the silent version of the film will be shown at the Exhibition Stand.

Since the last *REVIEW* was published the exhibit has been included in Preston and Blackburn Health Weeks and Exhibitions. At both exhibitions the sound version of "From Generation to Generation" drew large audiences, and we have been asked to arrange for it to be shown again.

HILDA POCKOCK.

Birth Rate and Cost of Education

At a Members' Meeting on Tuesday, June 14th, Dr. Grace G. Leybourne, Research Associate, Population Investigation Committee, read a paper on "The Cost of Education and Its Relation to the Size of the Family." This paper was concerned with the manner in which, from 1870 onwards, education gradually acquired increasing importance for all classes in England, and with the influence of these developments on the size of families.

By the early 70's new business needs and the introduction of public competitive examinations for entrance to the civil service conspired with other changes to make an extensive education altogether indispensable for children of the well-to-do. And this was the first generation of parents to be so generally convinced of this need. If education was essential, however, it was no less certain to be expensive, and many parents were anxious, if not compelled, to limit the number of children for whom this new and costly education must be bought. They were very ready to use the contraceptive way of escape, widely popularized after the Bradlaugh-Besant trial in 1876.

By 1870 it was also realized that the nation could ill afford to delay any longer the beginnings of an elementary education for all, and by an Education Act of 1870 the State for the first time shouldered the burden of education. But the board schools thus established provided only the elements of literacy, and as the century drew to a close England had to learn from foreigners that a mature commercialism needed a more advanced education to equip her clerks. National secondary schools were established under the Education Act of 1902. From the outset education in these schools conferred a social status above that of artisans, and those who shared it set for themselves a standard of life to which, with their moderate incomes, they could never fully attain. The cost of educating their children in the new secondary schools represented a considerable financial burden for them, but they could not sacrifice this education without

sacrificing the very status they were striving to maintain. They could help themselves in one way only—by reducing the size of their families. But although voices might be raised to lament the smaller families necessitated by these ambitions, we could hardly fail to recognize (to quote a prominent educationalist) "this new appetite for secondary education for what it usually is, a perfectly legitimate and praiseworthy attempt on the part of the sensible citizen to endow his child with a good education as the best, perhaps the only, capital asset which he can hope to pass on to him."

In the professional occupations also were found many parents striving after an education rather more expensive than they found it easy to finance. And in the last half-century their numbers had greatly increased. On comparatively limited resources they aimed at educating their children in the "public" or other self-governing schools. Furthermore, they were often not content for education to end with school days, their standards embracing university and professional training. The high costs involved could seldom be met for more than one or two children. Yet the ambition to train their children for a professional status could hardly be questioned.

For the working man, financial incentives to investing in a large family had grown steadily fainter during the last century with the Factory Acts and then compulsory education. In addition, men skilled in industrial processes became increasingly valuable since they were always scarce. Workers were thus furnished with a substantial motive for ambition to rise to join the ranks of this aristocracy of labour. But among manual no less than white-collared workers, parents' ambitions for children to acquire extra accomplishments would often be unreliable where the size of the family was large. There could be little doubt that the desire for advancement through technical training had taken its toll of large families among the working classes.

There seemed to be, then, in the social hierarchy no group for which evidence was not overwhelming that the cost of education

had been, and still was, a factor of importance in causing the collapse of the birth-rate. Here was an economic influence, pressing powerfully upon the size of families. The very fact that it was susceptible to such straightforward classification suggested a simple means, should that be desired, of counteracting its effects. The burden of educational costs could be offset by a policy of grants or scholarships—i.e. some extension of what had already been undertaken in a hesitant manner and probably on an ineffectual scale.

Dr. Leybourne's paper will be published in full in the next issue of the REVIEW.

Pioneer Health Centre

IN a previous issue (January 1938, p. 236) editorial reference was made to the experiment in preventive medicine now being conducted by Dr. Scott-Williamson, Dr. Innes Pearce and their co-workers at the Pioneer Health Centre, Peckham. The work of this Centre is now described in an interim report which has been published under the title *Biologists in Search of Material*.^{*} The title is a very good one. It emphasizes the fact that the Centre, while rendering to its members the various services mentioned in our previous note on the subject, is engaged in an inquiry into the bases of health, not in administering medical treatment. The facts elicited and their significance are as far as possible "presented to the family in their entirety"; but no advice is volunteered.

It was found in practice that when the examinations were conducted in a spirit which led up to conclusions which were bits of advice, often no action was taken; whereas by leaving it to spontaneity in the individual and to his own sense of responsibility, action is taken in the overwhelming majority of cases. This very action represents the exercise of a faculty that has been largely in abeyance. With exercise of a faculty, health develops. The faculty for responsibility is no exception to this rule.

It will be clear from the above that the health overhaul is developing a technique of its own, based on necessity and not upon theory.

The report deals consecutively with the collection of the material, the methods

adopted for its examination, and the objective and subjective facts thus disclosed. It is an intensely interesting document and includes much material of eugenic interest.

Bureau of Human Heredity

WITH a view to establishing its work on a permanent basis, the Bureau of Human Heredity has launched an appeal for a sum estimated at a minimum of £25,000. It claims that since the inception of the project in May 1936 "the co-operation of workers in science and medicine has been wholehearted in all countries where research is proceeding. In less than eighteen months the Bureau has accumulated data on the inheritance of over 600 physical and mental differences." The work of the Bureau "consists in centralizing in one world clearing-house the information already accurately ascertained on the inborn constitutional factors in man, and in distributing the information freely wherever it is required."

The appeal, which is signed by Lord Dawson of Penn, Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, Professor R. A. Fisher, Sir Richard Gregory, Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, Sir Arthur Keith, and Professor R. Ruggles Gates, concluded in the following words:

"Card indexes and filed reports of learned societies are not perhaps so moving as wards in a hospital. But that every doctor should be able on application to obtain the latest information from any country in the world, made available in English, on such vital matters as the resistance or non-resistance of certain types to common infections, or occupational diseases, for instance, is surely an aim immensely worthy of the most generous public support. It is well on the way to being realized, but the speed with which it can be fully achieved depends on the response to our appeal for this pioneer effort."

Donations should be sent to the Treasurer, Bureau of Human Heredity, 115 Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

Sterilization in Hereditary Blindness

AT a conference on June 4th, the National Association of Blind Workers passed a resolution which called the attention of the Ministry of Health to the urgency of the problem of hereditary blindness and asked

^{*} Faber & Faber, 2s.

that "immediate legislation be introduced to give effect to the suggestions made in the Brock Report, or, alternatively, by some other procedure conferring on local authorities adequate powers to deal with this problem."

Mr. B. Purse, General Secretary of the Association, moving the resolution, said that at present all that could be claimed for voluntary sterilization was that it would lead to the elimination of some of the unfit, not that it would solve the problem. He asked that the resolution should be passed, not as a solution to the problem, but as one contribution to its solution.

Sex Education Centre

THE Sex Education Centre conducted by Mrs. Janet Chance now has its own premises at 13 Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1. The Centre exists to provide instruction in the facts of sexual life, and in individual cases directs inquirers to sources of expert help and information. It is equipped with a very good lending library. The Centre does not give advice on the medical aspects of birth control, but on request sends addresses of birth-control clinics and of private practitioners qualified to give birth-control instruction.

Heredity Charts

THE heredity charts for schools, referred to in connexion with the work of the propaganda department, are six in number. The first chart illustrates diagrammatically the processes of cell division; the second illustrates the first law of Mendelian inheritance; the third, simple dominance; the fourth, sex-limited inheritance; the fifth, the inheritance of polydactylism; and the sixth, inheritance of physical prowess, as exemplified

by the Phelps family. Accompanying the charts is an explanatory handbook which is designed to assist the teacher or lecturer in obtaining the utmost value from the material illustrated. Four of the charts are in colour. Messrs. George Philip & Son Ltd., 32 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4, supply the charts singly or in sets, mounted or unmounted. The prices range from 1s. 9d. for a single unmounted chart to 32s. 6d. for the mounted set together with the explanatory handbook. The handbook is issued separately at 2s. 6d.

Mrs. Evelyn Fuller

TRIBUTES to the late Mrs. Evelyn Fuller are published elsewhere in this issue. Many members of the *Society* will be interested to know that a small fund is being raised by the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics to enable them to install in the Walworth and East London clinics a brass plaque inscribed as follows:

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EVELYN FULLER

1894—1938

WHO DEVOTED FIFTEEN YEARS OF HER
LIFE TO HELPING POOR MOTHERS IN
SOUTH AND EAST LONDON

Those who would like to subscribe to this fund are asked to send donations to the Hon. Treasurer, Walworth Women's Welfare Centre, 153a East Street, London, S.E.17.

Elections to the Society

THE following have been elected Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Eugenics Society* during the past quarter:

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| *A. E. Brown, Esq. | Mrs. Haines |
| F. Crook, Esq., M.B. | J. E. Meade, Esq. |
| *W. Twiston Davies, Esq. | Mrs. Meredith |
| *Mrs. Dooley | Miss Rabagliati |
| W. R. Dunlop, Esq. | The Lady Russell |
| Rev. James Gilchrist | |